

## ***FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** October 13, 2011

**Agenda Item:** Elk and Deer Permit Application Date change

**Division:** Finance and Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Approval of Proposed Rule

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 20 minutes

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### **Background**

Propose changing the application deadline for all resident and nonresident antlered/brow-tined/either sex elk & deer permits from June 1 to March 15 to coincide with current nonresident license drawing deadline. This proposal was brought before the Commission by Wildlife on December 9, 2010 as a proposed rule. The Commission directed the department to proceed and solicit public comment. Since there were many draft bills impacting FWP licensing in the 2011 Legislative session, final adoption of the proposed rule was postponed pending the outcome of the legislation. During the August meeting the Commission requested the Department provide further explanation of what the proposed change would entail and asked for an additional public comment period. The Department provided more rationale for the change and solicited additional public comment.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

The original public comment ran from December 10 thru 5 p.m. Friday, January 14, 2011. All public comment received is attached for Commission review. The additional public comment ran from September 9<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. As of September 29<sup>th</sup> XX comments were received and are attached, any additional comments received on Sept 30<sup>th</sup> will be presented to the Commission during the meeting.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2011 (status quo) as per staff justifications, public comment and/or Commission discussion.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

Rationale is primarily to enhance customer service for individuals applying for special elk and/or deer permits by providing drawing results in mid April rather than the end of July. This would allow more time for successful applicants to make vacation and hunting plans. Currently, nonresidents, who apply for hunting licenses on March 15 and are successful, must wait until the end of July to receive permit drawing results. Earlier notification to nonresidents of unsuccessful permit drawings would also provide more time for the Department to reissue returned licenses. Currently nonresidents return their licenses for an 80% refund by August 1<sup>st</sup> and the Department has to sell those licenses with a short timeframe before hunting season. Also, new license year sales would be made available in early January to provide additional time for residents to purchase prerequisites licenses and apply for the special elk and deer permits.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Commission adopt the proposed antlered/brow-tined/either sex elk & deer permit application deadline adjustment as presented by FWP.